

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 130

Designating March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27 (legislative day, MARCH 26), 2015

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”.

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces, allies of the United States, and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1950;

Whereas as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88–408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

Whereas in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas by September 1965, there were over 129,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas on January 27, 1973, the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam (commonly known as the “Paris Peace Accords”) was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;

Whereas in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by 4 presidential administrations in the United States; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam
3 Veterans Day”;

4 (2) honors and recognizes the contributions of
5 veterans who served in the United States Armed
6 Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

7 (3) encourages States and local governments to
8 designate March 29, 2015, as “Vietnam Veterans
9 Day”; and

10 (4) encourages the people of the United States
11 to observe the Vietnam Veterans Day with appro-
12 priate ceremonies and activities that—

1 (A) provide the appreciation veterans of
2 the Vietnam War deserve, but did not receive
3 upon returning home from the war;

4 (B) demonstrate the resolve that never
5 again shall the people of the United States dis-
6 regard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

7 (C) promote awareness of the faithful serv-
8 ice and contributions of the veterans of the
9 Vietnam War during military service as well as
10 to the communities of the veterans since return-
11 ing home;

12 (D) promote awareness of the importance
13 of entire communities empowering veterans and
14 the families of veterans in helping the veterans
15 readjust to civilian life after military service;
16 and

17 (E) promote opportunities for veterans of
18 the Vietnam War to assist younger veterans re-
19 turning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
20 in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and
21 unseen, and to support the reintegration of
22 younger veterans into civilian life.

○